



California Shade

Summer, 2004

*A Newsletter From The California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection Urban Forestry Program*

Newest Member of California ReLeaf Holds Kickoff Ceremony

Richmond Releaf celebrated receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF) Urban Forestry Program on April 15, 2004 at the Shields-Reid Community Center in Richmond, CA. Kemba Shakur, Director of Richmond Releaf, introduced the new organization to the community and its civic leaders. Shakur said she expects more than 200 volunteers to participate in the Proposition 12 - funded planting of over 200 trees.

Richmond Releaf will combine with Oakland Releaf to become Urban Releaf, an organization dedicated to planting trees primarily in low to moderate-income communities that have little or no tree canopy cover. The goal is to revitalize these communities by planting trees, providing environmental awareness education and on-the-job training for disadvantaged and at-risk youth.

Bill Morrison, Division Chief from

the CDF Santa Clara Unit, spoke to the group on behalf of the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection. The ceremony was also attended by Herb Bunt, Program Administrator for the State Urban Forestry Program and Bruce Hagen, State Urban Forester for Northern California, who both received plaques from Urban Releaf recognizing their efforts to bring state government and community service together.

Hot Topics

CDF is in the process of creating two newsletters – one for the California Community Forest Advisory Committee (CCFAC), which will be sent to members in order to gain input from the Regional Councils. The other will be put online at the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (UFEI) site and will provide information only. If you have input for either newsletter please contact Herb Bunt at herb.bunt@fire.ca.gov or your local CDF Urban Forestry Program Specialists.

East Bay Conservation Corps has expressed serious interest in the CDF Urban Wood Utilization Loan Program for processing urban-generated wood materials.

The volunteer/paid contractor issue has our attention and CDF is working to gather input where we can to get this problem solved. Our position at this time is that we will continue with our current contracts and those that are advertised with no immediate changes regarding the use of volunteers.

A “fix” to the controversy is underway and our legal staff is reviewing the situation. Meantime, it will be up to those with contracts and those applying for contracts to handle the problem as they see fit. Please stay in touch with CDF Urban Forestry personnel for updates and information.

A UFEI Forestry Ecosystems Academy will be held August 24-27, 2004 at Cal Poly. One-day seminars begin July 20. These are being looked at as possible college credits. Schedule is as follows: Monterey- July 20, Santa Rosa-July 21, Sacramento-July 22, Fresno-July 23, Bakersfield August 17, Glendale-August 18, Riverside-August 19, San Diego-August 20.

CDF is starting a new 5-year plan for the Urban Forestry Program and a revised *State of the Urban Forest in California* summary. Input will be requested from CCFAC and other sources.

Side View: John Melvin

John Melvin is a Forestry Assistant II with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Urban and Community Forestry Program, working out of the South Operations Center in Riverside, CA. When he isn't processing Prop 12 contracts, scheduling inspections on completed projects or speaking and presenting awards at Arbor Day events, chances are he's busy with something else involving urban forestry.

Community outreach is an important part of CDF's role in urban forestry, and Melvin takes the time to meet with private and local government groups, offering his

ideas and expertise. He attends Regional Urban Forest Council meetings and is working with them to plan a workshop and a regional arbor day. He has met with the City of Temecula in regards to their establishing a tree ordinance, urban forestry department and becoming a Tree City USA, providing technical assistance in developing their program and ordinance. At the request of CDF's San Bernardino Unit, Melvin assisted the unit forester and pre-fire engineer in developing a fire safety guide for publication in Inland Empire newspapers that would address fire-safe landscaping and maintenance.

The Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute has been operating for nine years as a center of excellence for urban forestry and forest management. Through a collaborative venture with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, UFEI has achieved the following:

- Basic Urban Forest Academies and management seminars for urban foresters and non-profit administrators.
- Short course sessions in Growth and Yield, mensuration and silviculture.
- The City Green technology transfer program.
- The UFEI website.
www.ufe.calpoly.edu
- Two "Strategic Planning for the Urban Forest" workshops.
- Review workshops and seminars on Forest Certification (Forest Products Commission).

Currently there are several programs and projects operating or in the approval process. CityGreen has been expanded to become a regional analysis of the

San Diego, California urban area for USFS/CDF. Also, three Urban/Community forestry demonstration projects on open-space management are being developed and the institute is processing a multi-year agreement for the Urban Forest Academies and manager's seminars. The schedule is:

- August 24-27, 2004

Urban/Community Forestry Ecosystem Academy, San Luis Obispo

- July 20-23, 2004

One Day Urban/Community Forestry Workshops (Santa Rosa, Monterey, Sacramento, Fresno)

- August 17-20, 2004

One Day Urban/Community Forestry Workshops (Glendale, Bakersfield, Riverside, San Diego)



During the California Envirothon in April, 2004 Melvin ran the forestry field station test, set up a scavenger hunt and participated in panels to answer questions about the forestry and special topic tests.

"Three teams that I tutored placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd," said Melvin. "I will continue tutoring them in the hopes that they will bring first place to California next year." The first place team in state competition will go to West Virginia for the National Envirothon.

Melvin can be reached by email at:
John.Melvin@fire.ca.gov or by phone at (909) 320-6124.

A Fire-Safe Landscape

Design and plant selection are important components in developing a fire-safe landscape, but the most critical element is maintenance. While proper landscaping can reduce the spread of fire and reduce the risk to adjacent structures, pruning, watering and replacement of unhealthy and dead plants is essential. Even well-designed landscapes can become hazardous if not properly maintained.

Defensible space does not mean that the area should be free of vegetation. Well-maintained trees and shrubs are fine if they are spaced so that they do not provide a continuous path from approaching fire to the structure or allow flames to spread into a tree's canopy. Ideally, trees within the defensible space should be spaced 20 to 30 feet apart to prevent lateral fire spread.

Trees and plants must be irrigated regularly to maintain favorable moisture levels, however all plant material will burn under the right conditions so choose your trees and plants from the more fire-resistant species available. Many native and Mediterranean plants are desirable for fire-safe landscaping and are adapted to winter rain and dry summers. For more information on fire-safe trees and plants, contact your area forester.

Envirothon 2004

The California Envirothon, held on April 21-23, 2004 at the Highland Springs Resort, drew more than 175 students from across the state to match their skills in forestry-related subjects. The annual science competition for high school students is sponsored by Canon, and is run by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

The student teams are tested at five field stations on the topics of forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and an additional "current topic" that changes each year. The students must also use what they have learned to prepare an oral presentation about a hypothetical problem related to the current topic. For 2004, the current topic is Urban Ecosystems Management.

The first-place team will represent California in the national competition held this July in West Virginia.

California Shade is a publication of
the California Department of
Forestry & Fire Protection

Governor
Arnold Schwarzenegger

Secretary of Resources
The Resources Agency
Michael Chrisman

Director
California Department of Forestry &
Fire Protection
Andrea E. Tuttle



California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Urban and Community Forestry Program Contacts

Herb Bunt

Urban Forestry Program Administrator
Sacramento Headquarters, Sacramento, CA
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
(916) 651-6423
herbert.bunt@fire.ca.gov

Bruce Hagen

Forester I
Northern Region Headquarters, Santa Rosa, CA
135 Ridgway Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 576-2936
bruce.hagen@fire.ca.gov

Darla Mills

Forestry Assistant II
South Region Headquarters, Fresno, CA
1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710-7899
(559) 243-4109
darla.mills@fire.ca.gov

Eric Oldar

Forester I
Southern Operations Center, Riverside, CA
2524 Mulberry St.
Riverside, CA 92501
(909) 320-6125
eric.oldar@fire.ca.gov

John Melvin

Forestry Assistant II
Southern Operations Center, Riverside, CA
2524 Mulberry St.
Riverside, CA 92501
(909) 320-6124
john.melvin@fire.ca.gov

www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/UrbanForestry

**If you would like to receive this publication by email,
please send an email request to:**

candace.kraemer@fire.ca.gov